



75 Years and Stronger Than Ever!

Abbey Road celebrated its 75th anniversary on 12th November 2006



Casting their eyes across the water to the new Hollywood film business, the directors of the company that was to become EMI decided to pull all the parts of musical production onto one site and so invented the revolutionary new concept of "the recording studio." So, 75 years ago, Abbey Road was born and became the world's first recording studio and has since continued in its radical tradition of invention & experimentation; all in the service of further aiding the creative process.

Many of the world's greatest artists have worked at Abbey Road since Edward Elgar made the first recording. Great classical artists conducted by Von Karajan & Klemperer, big bands like Glenn Miller, comedians like Peter Sellers, the cultural phenomenon that was The Beatles, the film music of John Williams and landmark records by Pink Floyd & Radiohead have added their mark to the Abbey Road story.

Less well known are the many technical developments that have taken place within the walls of Abbey Road – for example, Blumlein's work developing stereo and television, Ken Townsend & his colleagues inventing ADT, "Flanging" and DI etc. as they helped The Beatles turn the studio itself into one giant instrument. More recently, Sam Harvey's team developed the world's first interactive design studio and pioneered DVD and on-line formats.

Reacting to increasing audio-visual and interactive consumer tastes, Abbey Road has developed its own creative capabilities. Alongside Abbey Road Interactive, in typical tradition, the studio has also developed in-house, their Digital Product supply business. They are HD ready and working in both audio and video on HD-DVD and Blu Ray.

"...an estimated 120,000 visitors each year who come to write their name on the wall..."

The production of equipment and software based on classic EMI designed Abbey Road kit is a further venture. "To allow people to have a little bit of the Abbey Road sound wherever they are recording."

Branching out into new areas, "Live From Abbey Road" featuring performances from some of the great contemporary artists, is due for transmission on Channel 4 in the UK and significant networks around the world – becoming the first world-wide music show.

Emotionally, Abbey Road holds a special place in the heart of the music industry. The

Beatles decision to call their final studio album "Abbey Road" cemented their place in musical history and has resulted in an estimated 120,000 visitors each year who come to write their name on the wall and have their picture taken on that crossing. Kicking off EMI's new Oral History Project by focussing on 75 years of Abbey Road staff, Paul Lilley, EMI's Heritage Archivist is looking for ex-EMI employees to interview. The initial results will shortly be published.

Continually graced by some of the world's greatest creative talents, Abbey Road remains an essential part of EMI's Studios Group, along with Olympic Studios in south west London and Capitol Studios in Los Angeles. The anniversary was marked by a large party for the extended "family" of people who have contributed to the Abbey Road story over the years.

If you'd like to contribute to the Oral History Project, contact Paul Lilley at paul.lilley@emimusic.com. Also see www.abbeyroad.com.



The Montserrat Cultural Centre

Performing and Visual Arts centre in the Caribbean built and ready for equipment.

In 1997 Sir George and Lady Martin persuaded some of the most famous and successful international recording musicians to perform a special concert at the Royal Albert Hall to raise money for the people of the Caribbean island of Montserrat which had been devastated by a major eruption of the Soufriere Hills volcano.

The concert raised over US\$1,000,000 and further fund raising has allowed Sir George's plan to provide a permanent building and a home for Montserratian culture. After nearly 10 years of effort, Sir George's vision of a Montserrat Cultural Centre is nearing completion and focus now turns to equipping the building to

create the finest Performing and Visual Arts centre in the Caribbean.

Throughout the design and building stages, the MCC has benefited from support and donations from individuals and institutions. An equipment quest was launched by Sir George Martin at the Innovation Awards at the PLASA exhibition in September 2006.

Peter Filleul, Executive Director of the APRS who is helping the Montserrat Equipment Quest comments, "The time has now come to seek help from the audio, lighting and stage fittings industries to help turn the magnificent shell of the building into a fully equipped and working facility to attract international artists, businesses and training providers. Our aim is to secure the

generosity and support of the UK manufacturing industries by soliciting pledges of donated or discounted equipment and financial support. We anticipate much of the equipment will be new to the region and plan to provide short training and installation courses to be held on the premises. We see training and education as a key element to the MCC's future."

Having a training and demonstration base in the Caribbean provides a unique opportunity to manufacturers and distributors wishing to develop the Caribbean and Latin American markets, offering a 'local' showroom for the region. We are devising a donor affinity scheme to reinforce brand recognition in what is a new, vibrant and expanding market, hitherto dominated by US sourced suppliers.



Sir George Martin & team at PLASA

If you wish to help, please contact -
Peter Filleul on 020 8699 1245 or
peterfilleul@compuserve.com



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In the year that the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts celebrated its 10th anniversary, a recent edition of See Me Now, the LIPA alumni students Newsletter, illustrated a diverse selection of jobs in which their graduate students become involved.

2002 Sound Technology graduate, Gemma Stansfield currently working on new film Blood & Chocolate, has worked on blockbusters like Batman Begins, Love Actually and the last three Harry Potter films. Gemma said, "I started on Harry Potter 3 as a runner, but they were so pleased that I got an Assistant Sound Editor credit. It has been a gradual progression and on Harry Potter 4, I was actually the First Assistant Sound Editor, so I'm moving slowly towards the goal of being a Supervising Sound Editor."

Robin Schmidt, spent much of his time at LIPA planting the seeds to become a "mastering master." Using the experience gained on the Sound Technology course, Robin founded 24-96 Mastering, building the company from scratch as Chief Mastering Engineer. "We're one of the few studios in Germany who specialise in high resolution and multi-channel media mastering and authoring. There's maybe five in the whole country!"

APRS ACCREDITED COURSES GET YOU PLACES

LIPA Students graduating in BA Hons Sound Technology get all the best jobs!



Gemma Stansfield

Other typical success stories are from South American John Gibbe who is now working on the road and in the studio with some of Latin America's biggest rock bands and Al McKinna who has taken a position in European Live Sales Support with digital manufacturer Digidesign.

In operation for more than a decade, the APRS I MPG course Accreditation process has historically assessed universities' and colleges' teaching content and technique to ensure that it is appropriate to the needs of the

recording industry, whilst confirming a standard to the prospective student. A recent move by the APRS and MPG to increase Accreditation support was to launch a new enterprise called JAMES - Joint Audio Media Education Services. Endorsed by the patronage of Sir George Martin, JAMES will now be the first point of contact for all bodies requiring information and advice on recording industry training and education.

For more information, go to www.jamesonline.org.uk and www.lipa.ac.uk

Invite for New APRS Board Members

The APRS is very keen to see new, enthusiastic and active members on the Board, especially those from the new membership Categories B, C and D. If you are interested, please let Head Office know in advance or come along to the AGM and have a chat.

DID YOU KNOW...?

AGE DISCRIMINATION... WILL YOU STILL NEED ME WHEN I'M 65?

Much has been written in the press about the ageing work population and concerns over skills shortages in the workplace. Many people think the new Age Discrimination legislation - in force on 1 Oct 2006 - will open up employment opportunities for those who need to work past 65. The Regulations, however, may have the opposite effect. Go to the APRS website for the full story from our business support team at Croner - plus the latest information on H&S; flexible working and forthcoming legislation alerts. See www.aprs.co.uk.

FACTS SUPPLIED BY

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The APRS Business Support Helpline
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Others are using it to help run their businesses, why don't you - it's just a phone call away.

INDUSTRY MOURNS TRAGIC LOSS

Legendary Producer/Engineer John Timperley

Extract from a tribute by Gerry O'Riordan

After recently being diagnosed with leukemia, John Timperley sadly passed away in September 2006.

John was a stickler for detail and fastidious about the equipment he used in order to obtain the best possible results from any recording situation. Whenever we rigged a location control room, every piece of kit was systematically checked for earthing hum, background noise levels and sonic integrity. If a microphone was remotely noisy it would be changed, if a cable created the faintest buzz it would be replaced. In this way John knew that he could capture the musical performance and the acoustics of the concert hall with the greatest accuracy.

John had started his career in the audio business at IBC studios in the late fifties,

going on to run Pye and Chappell studios during the sixties. He went to Switzerland in the early seventies to build and run Mountain Studios near Montreux, subsequently returning to the UK and putting together Angel Studios in north London, which he ran until the early nineties. John remained a sought-after freelance engineer working throughout Europe on mobile recording sessions and from his own purpose-built Copthorne Studios. Far from being 'just another classical recording engineer,' JT had worked with a mind-boggling cross section of musical talent, ranging from the likes of Cream, Yes and ELP to Count Basie, Placido Domingo, to Rolf Harris and Peter Sellers.

John's attention to detail is something that always showed in his work and explains



why so many artists, composers and fellow engineers held him in such high esteem.

He will be sorely missed in an industry where budgets and deadlines often seem to take precedence over quality control. As far as JT was concerned, it was *always* about quality control.

member's news

New FX Website

FX have recently launched a new website at www.fxgroup.net. The site features special features on vintage audio equipment, classic instruments and a continually updated list of new equipment for hire. Visitors can read articles about FX's involvement in a diverse range of audio projects and can browse the extensive lists of hire equipment. The site also features information about the FX Copyroom, where old audio tapes are restored and transferred to new media. There is a useful list of vintage analogue and digital formats that the Copyrooms can play back. See how many formats you can remember using! Go to www.fxgroup.net.

FREE creditsafe.com searches for APRS members

Christmas has come early! The APRS is offering its members FREE creditsafe.com searches until the end of December 2006 - normally £10 per enquiry. If you are not sure about a prospective client's creditworthiness, just call us or send an email with the company's name and address and we will do the rest. The cost of the call could save your business. Tel: 01803 868600 Email: info@aprs.co.uk

Solid State Logic Announce Duality

SSL's latest large-format production console, Duality is designed to closely integrate with your Digital Audio Workstation by combining the analogue sonics of legendary SSL E, G & K Series consoles with extended DAW integration capabilities. In addition to split-path channel processing, the console features a SuperAnalogue™ mic amp, each channel features a Variable Harmonic Drive™ input stage designed to add analogue character to otherwise soul-less workstation outputs. See www.solid-state-logic.com

Win a Fairlight Crystal Core CC-1 PCIe Card

As promotion for the release of their latest ground-breaking product, the FPGA powered Crystal Core Engine, Tekcare and Fairlight are announcing a competition. Just register for a demo before 31st January 2007 and you could win a new Crystal Core CC-1 card. In addition, Tekcare are holding an open evening demonstrating the product on Wednesday, 29 November, 6.30 for 7pm at The Bath House (upstairs), 96 Dean Street, London W1 - drinks and nibbles provided. To book for either, email graham@tekcare.co.uk.

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